

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social/	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
X 1900-1936	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates c. 1935 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Short Farm complex, constructed circa 1935, is a rare example of its type and period in Kent County and therefore appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

This Colonial Revival style farmhouse and its surrounding outbuildings are unusual in that they were built during the 1930s, the era of the Depression. In contrast with the more typical Kent County agricultural complexes which evolved from 18th and 19th grain and produce farms updated with 20th century outbuildings, the Short Farm was built in its entirety as a dairy farm in the 20th century. This homogenous collection of 1930s farm buildings stands apart from those complexes of earlier origin, noteworthy not only for its single build, but also for its attractive design of Colonial Revival and vernacular buildings.

The land on which this complex was constructed was purchased by George N. and Anna S. Short from Henrietta D. Driggs in 1916. At that time, a dwelling house and outbuildings were on the site, however, their appearance is not known at present. In the early 1930s these buildings were razed as part of the expansion of Route 13. This expansion included the construction of the present northbound lanes. Unlike the majority of farms affected by the road expansion, the Shorts elected to rebuild in whole rather than relocate and/or move the existing buildings. The complex has remained virtually unaltered from its 1935 appearance with the exception of the silo which was removed circa 1980. The Short Farm is an important and well-preserved example of a farm complex from a period in which little construction was undertaken owing to the Depression.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Recorder of Deeds, Kent County Courthouse, The Green, Dover, DE.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.34

Quadrangle name Smyrna

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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4	3	4	7	5	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol A. Benenson, M.S.

organization KKFS, Inc.

date December 1986

street & number 1316 Arch Street

telephone 215-561-1050

city or town Philadelphia

state PA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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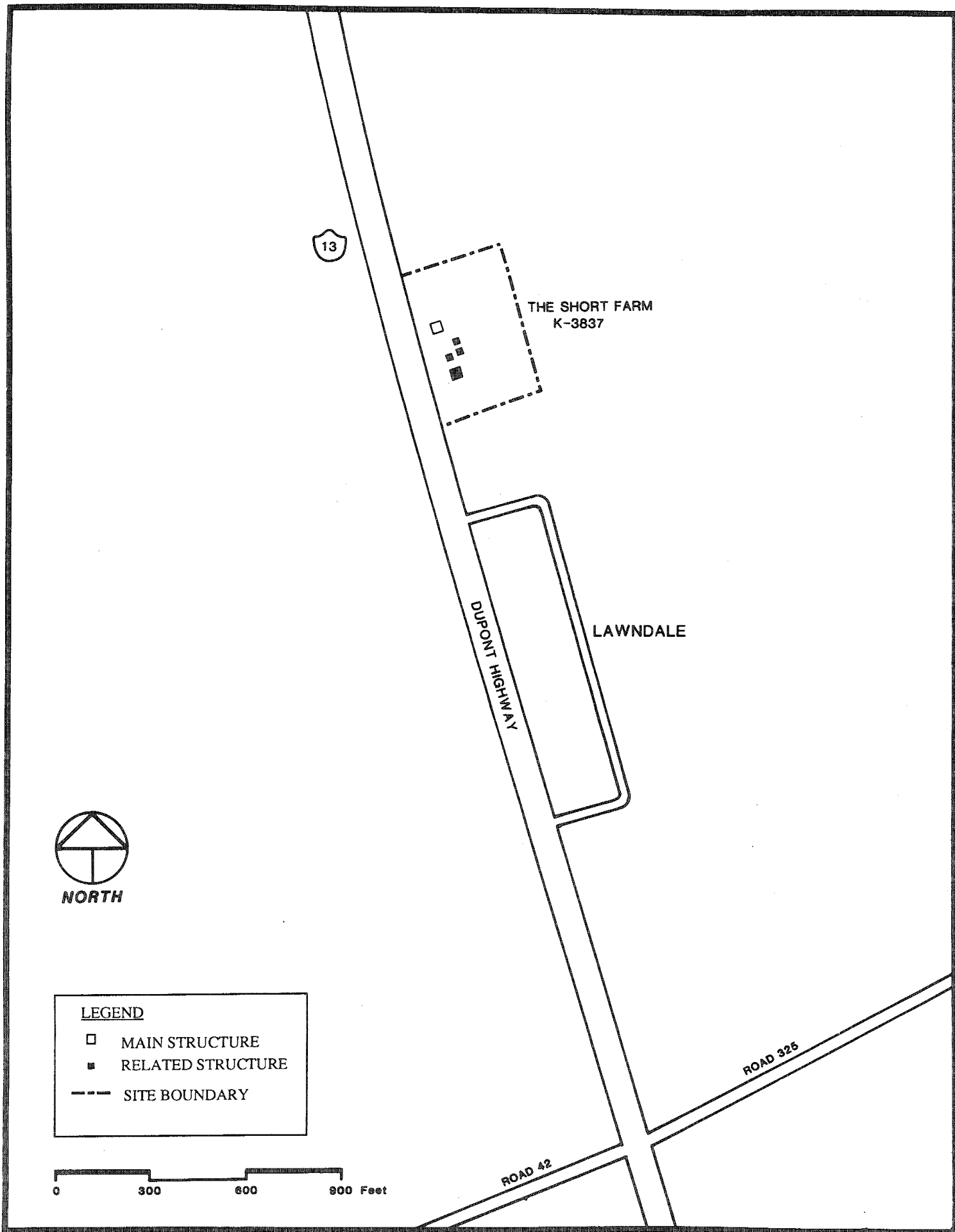
Continuation sheet George N. Short Farm Complex Item number 10

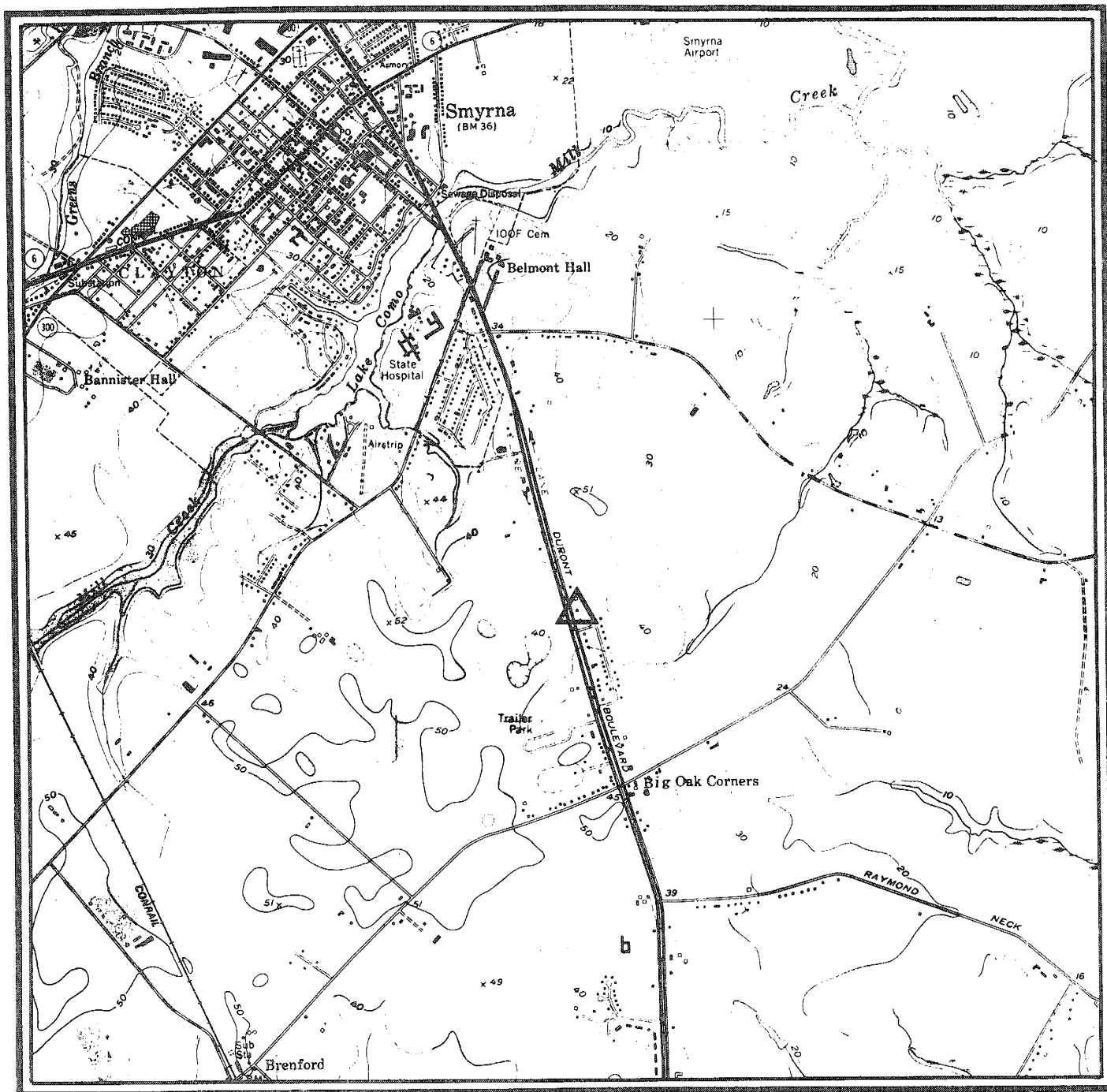
Page 2

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point located 1,050 feet north of the center line of North Street and 425 feet east of the easterly right of way of Dupont Highway; thence, extending southerly 650 feet; thence, at 90° extending westerly 425 feet to the right of way of Dupont Highway; thence, at 90° extending northerly 650 feet along said right of way; thence, at 90° extending easterly 425 feet to the point of beginning.

The proposed historic boundary contains sufficient acreage (6.34 acres) to preserve the historic buildings, setting, and immediate surrounds of this farm complex.



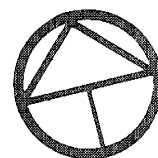


△ THE SHORT FARM (K-3837)

Dupont Parkway (Rt. 13)
 Kent Co., Del.
 UTM: 18.448950.4347570



SOURCE:
 USGS SMYRNA QUADRANGLE
 Delaware
 7.5 Minute Series



NORTH



Fig. 2-52. The Short Farm (K-3837), Main house, main (west) elevation.



Fig. 2-53. The Short Farm (K-3837), Main house, south and east elevations.



Fig. 2-54. The Short Farm (K-3837), Main house, living room.



Fig. 2-55. The Short Farm (K-3837), Main house, dining room fireplace.

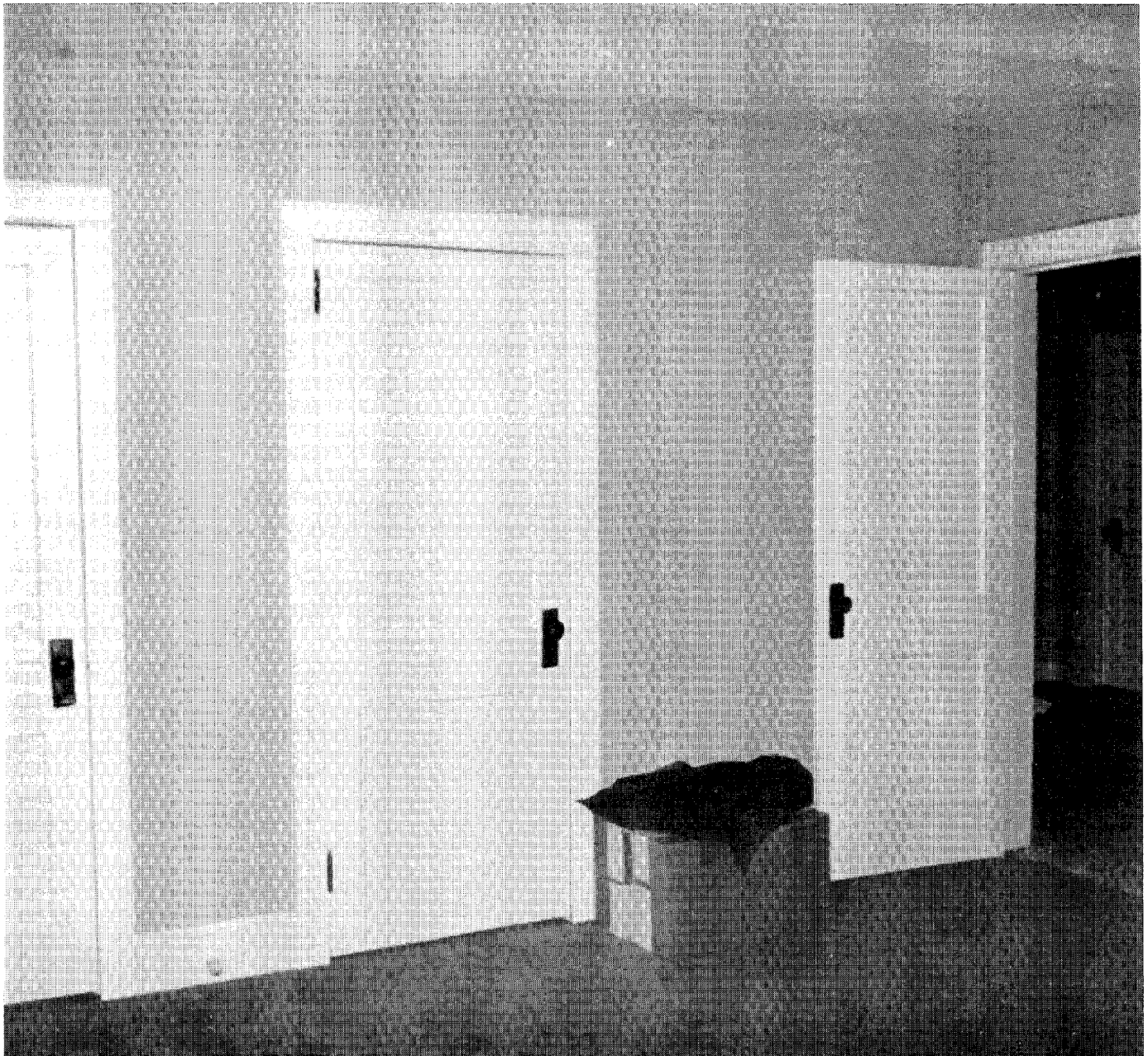


Fig. 2-56. The Short Farm (K-3837), Main house, typical bedroom.



Fig. 2-57. The Short Farm (K-3837), Barn, west and north elevations.



Fig. 2-58. The Short Farm (K-3837), Shed and garage, looking northeast.

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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic George T. Thompson House

and/or common

2. LocationS. Dupont Highway, immediately north of North Street of
street & number Lawndale development not for publicationcity, town Duck Creek Hundred ☒ vicinity of Smyrna

state Delaware code county Kent code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Helen Miller

street & number Box 970 S. Dupont Highway

city, town Smyrna vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Recorder of Deeds

street & number Kent County Courthouse, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Delaware Cultural Resource Survey
K-3836has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A farm lane leads to the George T. Thompson House which is located on the east side of Dupont Highway below Smyrna. The property is bounded by modern dwelling houses to the north, an open field to the east, and a modern development (originally part of this tract) to the south.

The house was built circa 1885 as a gabled ell cottage. Constructed of frame, the building has its original clapboarding. A wrap-around porch fills in the ell which is formed by a front projecting gabled wing. The porch is supported by original turned posts embellished with jigsaw brackets. The stick balustrade is a later replacement. Two entrances lead into the cottage, one into the ell, the other into the gabled cross wing which rises to a central gable. That gable is sheathed with wood fish-scale shingles, derived from the Queen Anne. Windows generally are 2/2 double hung with thin lipped lintels. The gabled end of the ell is ornamented with sawtoothed bargeboard and a finial. The south side elevation features a first floor shingled polygonal bay, the north side elevation, a rectangular bay addition. The rear has a later porch and a 1970s addition. The cottage is topped by a box cornice with a cyma reversa molding and a metal roof.

In plan, the cottage is divided into three rooms, with a boxed-in stair positioned between the kitchen and side parlor. The rooms have smooth plaster walls, grooved surrounds with bosses, molded baseboards, and paneled doors, typical of the period. A bracketed mantel shelf and an entablature mantel survive at the first floor; a simpler mantel shelf exists in the second floor west bedroom.

The original outbuildings that would have accompanied this 88-acre farm have been demolished. Existing outbuildings include a frame garage and a frame shed.

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Continuation sheet George T. Thompson House Item number 7 Page 2

